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Agenda item 95 (g)

Environment and sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed **Amaziane** (Morocco)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95 (see A/55/582, para. 2). Action on sub-item (g) was taken at the 32nd and 41st meetings, on 8 November and on 6 December 2000. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/55/SR.32 and 41).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/55/L.23 and A/C.2/55/L.48

2. At the 32nd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/55/L.23), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999 as well as other resolutions relating to the protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/55/582 and Add.1-8.

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"*Noting with appreciation* that all Member States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

"*Concerned* that global greenhouse gas emissions have continued to grow at an alarming rate and that the adverse effects of climate change are impacting negatively at the global level,

"*Stressing* the importance for all parties to the Convention to implement their respective commitments and recognizing that provision of financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building are important prerequisites for developing country parties of fulfilling their obligations under the Convention, bearing in mind the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities,

"*Welcoming* the convening of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 13 to 24 November 2000, and expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands for its generous offer to host the Conference of the Parties,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* for the generous offer of the Government of Morocco to host the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties in Marrakech,

"*Noting* the preparatory process towards the sixth session of the Conference,

"1. *Calls upon* all parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to intensify their efforts towards reaching a successful outcome of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, including the consensus necessary for the timely entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

"2. *Urges* all parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Kyoto Protocol to do so as soon as possible with a view to ensuring its early entry into force, bearing in mind the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

"3. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session to contribute to the preparation of the ten-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and requests the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its tenth session to this end;

"4. *Notes* with satisfaction the steps taken to strengthen cooperation among the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

"5. *Takes note* of decision 10/CP.5 of 4 November 1999 on capacity-building in developing-country parties, to the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its fifth session, and invites the Global Environment Facility as the financial mechanism of the Convention as well as relevant international organizations to implement the provisions of that decision and its annex;

"6. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to undertake appropriate measures to simplify its project cycle in order to strengthen its activities in the area of the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and adaptation, consistent with the priorities of developing-country parties;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the necessary provisions to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003 those sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference of the Parties may need to convene in that period;

"8. *Recalls* its request to the States parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in accordance with General Assembly decision 52/445 of 18 December 1997, that, beginning in 2000, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention should take all appropriate measures to avoid convening its sessions and those of its subsidiary bodies during the sessions of the Assembly;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

"10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind'".

3. At the 41st meeting, on 6 December, the Chairman of the Committee, on behalf of the Vice-Chairman, Navid Hanif (Pakistan), introduced a draft decision (A/C.2/55/L.48), submitted by the Vice-Chairman on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.23.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft decision A/C.2/55/L.48.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/55/L.48 (see para. 7).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft decision A/C.2/55/L.48, draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.23 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly decides:

(a) To express its regret that negotiations could not be completed at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at The Hague and calls upon all parties to intensify political consultations to reach a successful conclusion at a resumed session;

(b) To invite the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session to contribute to the preparation of the ten-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21[1] and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[2] and to request the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its tenth session to this end;

(c) To request the Secretary-General to make the necessary provisions to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003 those sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference of the Parties may need to convene in that period;

(d) To request the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

(e) To include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.